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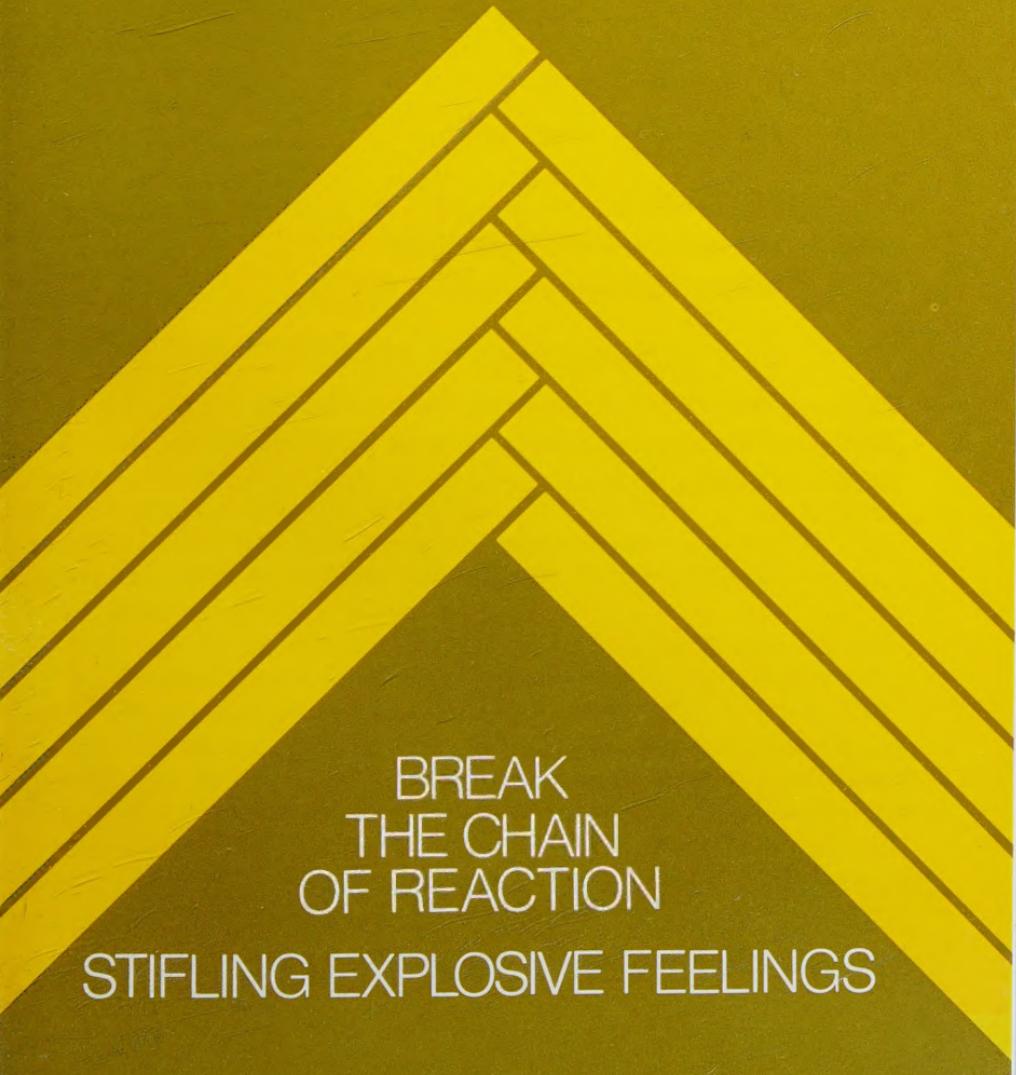


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"What I say unto you I say unto all, WATCH."—Jesus



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THE CHAIN
OF REACTION

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Founded in 1898 by Mary Baker Eddy,
Author of the Christian Science Textbook,
Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures



Marca Registrada

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"What I say unto you I say unto all, WATCH." Jesus

Break the Chain of Reaction

BENJAMIN N. COVINGTON

Do we often allow our thoughts to move with the current of negative, mortal thinking? If so, we can end that, right now. All true communication is from the divine source, from the one infinite All-Mind. Evil thoughts don't exist within our true mentality. The Scriptures promise, "Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee."¹

Were we to accept unthinkingly all the detrimental chatter thrown at us in conversations and by the media, we would be duped into believing we are helpless material beings. But Christian Science, following the Bible teachings, insists that this is not so; we're spiritual children of Spirit, God. Recognizing this, we won't contribute to a chain of reaction, the source of which cannot be found in the divine Mind. Our need is to "put on the whole armour of God,"² to leave no area of our thought unguarded. We cannot ignore the slightest lie but need to reverse it alertly.

Reaction to error only prolongs it. Man, the image of God, reflects the omnianction of the only Mind. The spiritual fact that Mind is all-acting is the antidote for reacting to the aggressive suggestions of evil.

Never underestimate the good that clear Christianly scientific thoughts can accomplish. One person, acting quickly with spiritual truth, can stop devilish lies from spreading. We can refuse to react to evil in a "knee jerk" fashion, as though our thought were preconditioned to respond immediately to it. Through our perception of God as the only Mind, we can do incalculable good by breaking the chain of erroneous thought. Certainly *we* can refuse to send out reverberations of reaction to error. Reaction only compounds it; refusal to react destroys it.

Sometimes one disturbing world event after another seems to scream turbulence at us. Do we listen to these disquieting screams or turn the truth of the perfection of God and man on them? Mary Baker Eddy, the Discoverer and Founder of Christian Science, says, "It requires courage to utter truth; for the higher Truth lifts her voice, the louder will error scream, until its inarticulate sound is forever silenced in oblivion."³ Order is God's unerring law. Steadfastly sticking to God's law of order and spiritual harmony, we bring these qualities into our experience and find right solutions to our problems.

Prayerfully applying God's law to the woes we see about us, we find disquietudes giving place to order and peace, to the presence of the healing Christ. A chain of chaotic human thinking is broken as thought yields to the cosmos of the divine Mind, God, the only realm in which the real man is ever to be found. Even a chain reaction to physical contagion can be broken. This is done right in the thought of those who refuse to accept the suggestion that disease can spread from one physical body to another—an impossibility in Science.

I found myself in the middle of an office situation that adversely affected scores of people. The office manager was angry; he was venting his frustrations on other people. The employees were reacting in fear and frustration.

I was selling an office item and had been ushered into the manager's office inadvertently during one of his temper tantrums.

He shouted angrily at me, "What do you want?" Knowing that I could not make a sale while he was in such a state, I requested an appointment for later in the day and got it.

Immediately I went to a Christian Science Reading Room—a place of refuge from this turbulence. I decided I'd reverse the whole chaotic picture. I realized the disorderly situation should be handled and healed right in my own thought. I saw that God never created man turbulent, ill-tempered, and afraid; that man is unafraid, calm, and serene. I refused to concur with the scene I had witnessed and broke the chain of reaction. I quietly acted according to God's law of love.

Two sentences by Mrs. Eddy commanded my attention: "Every man and woman should be to-day a law to himself, herself,—a law of loyalty to Jesus' Sermon on the Mount." And, "We should measure our love for God by our love for man; and our sense of Science will be measured by our obedience to God,—fulfilling the law of Love, doing good to all; imparting, so far as we reflect them, Truth, Life, and Love to all within the radius of our atmosphere of thought."⁴

Here was my specific answer! I could truly love everybody in that office, especially the man who angrily shouted at me. All of those people came within the radius of my atmosphere of thought. So, obeying God's law of love, I sat there in the Reading Room and loved and loved and loved the ideal, spiritual man and woman, God's reflection, until all sense of frustration was eradicated from my thought. I became conscious of nothing but Love—everywhere. This annihilated the error.

In the afternoon I reappeared at the office. Much to my surprise, the office manager asked what I had done when I left there that morning. He said when I came in everything was going wrong. Soon after I left, a decided change took place in everybody's attitude, including his own.

"All right," I said, "you've asked me; I'll tell you. I prayed, and I loved you and everybody in this office with all my heart. Each of you is the image of God." He said, "Well, I knew that somebody got in touch with the Lord, because only the Lord could have changed attitudes the way they were changed here this morning." He asked what I was selling and gave me a large order.

Applying God's law of love and refusing to react to error broke the chain of aggressive mortal suggestion in my thought and apparently in the thought of each one in that office.

Is it worth our metaphysical efforts always to prayerfully affirm the law of Truth and Love immediately instead of reacting negatively? Yes! These efforts break the chain of reaction and help establish the kingdom of heaven—universal peace and harmony—on earth.

¹ Isa. 26:3; ² Eph. 6:11; ³ *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures*, p. 97; ⁴ *Miscellaneous Writings*, p. 12.

"... stop and ask . . . What am I believing?"

What Are We Accepting?

ALICE WILT STRAUSS

Are we allowing ourselves to be "conformed to this world" with its false beliefs and opinions? Paul writes, "Be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God."¹

What is acceptable to God? Only that which is real, good, pure, harmonious, and eternal. Our heavenly Father, divine Love, already has provided for each of His children all that is acceptable unto Him —health, joy, peace, security, abundant supply. Perfect Mind knows only perfection, and man, Mind's reflection, can know only what Mind knows. Man cannot know a lie; taking our stand on this basis, we can refuse to be influenced by aggressive mental suggestion into accepting a lie.

J. B. Phillips paraphrases Paul's statement "Be not conformed to this world" in these words: "Don't let the world around you squeeze you into its own mould."² How can we avoid being squeezed into

the world's mold, the world's way of thinking? Christian Science shows us the way. Through dedicated study of *Science and Health* by Mrs. Eddy, we are alerted to the ways in which mortal, material thinking would make us conform to its limited, imperfect forms. When confronted with false, evil suggestions, we can heed Mrs. Eddy's instructions, "Be watchful, sober, and vigilant"³ and refuse to accept the suggestions.

Although we may acknowledge that God is supreme intelligence, are we still believing we have a private mind capable of acting independently? Paul refers to this so-called mind as "the carnal mind" and declares that it "is enmity against God."⁴ Christian Science stresses the need to guard our thought constantly against the suggestions of this bogus mind. Mrs. Eddy warns, "Unless one's eyes are opened to the modes of mental malpractice, working so subtly that we mistake its suggestions for the impulses of our own thought, the victim will allow himself to drift in the wrong direction without knowing it." And she adds emphatically, "Be ever on guard against this enemy."⁵

Resistance to the Christ is not new. Christ Jesus overcame it, and so can we. We need to be quick to deny the false claim that there can be a mind opposed to God, a mind that can resist God's power, the only power, and that can interfere with or obstruct the operation of God's law.

God is the only Mind, the only intelligence, the only lawmaker; there can be nothing beyond limitless Mind. Therefore there is no mortal mind to oppose itself to God or claim power to influence falsely. Mortal mind cannot alter the spiritual facts of the universe and man. It cannot cause confusion or dissension in our homes, our churches, our government, when we realize that Mind is God, and God is Love, and Love governs all in perfect harmony and peace.

How do we react when someone talks about symptoms of discord or disease? Mortal mind would have us accept the suggestion that disease is real and that certain symptoms naturally accompany certain ailments. But certainly sickness is not from God, divine Love, for God gives to His creation only health, harmony, completeness. His child is not a fluctuating mortal capable of experiencing health one day and sickness the next, for divine Principle

maintains every one of His children at the point of perfection. Consequently, there can be no sickness or disease to identify itself as man.

As we refuse to give validity to these false suggestions, we expose them for what they are—lies about God and His manifestation, man. Denying them power, we can help free ourselves and others from the burden of enslaving false laws.

And what are we accepting with regard to age? Frequently we hear it said, "He's too young to understand" or "too young to be given responsibility." Yet maturity and understanding are not wholly a question of years, nor does the mere passage of time develop these qualities. Dependability, trustworthiness, integrity, wisdom, are qualities derived from Mind. At the age of twelve Jesus exhibited great wisdom and intelligence. We read in Luke's Gospel of Jesus sitting in the temple "in the midst of the doctors, both hearing them, and asking them questions. And all that heard him were astonished at his understanding and answers."⁶

What is erroneously termed "the aging process" would also limit mankind. But divine Principle, the Principle of man, is ageless. It never began and will never come to an end. The real man, our true and only identity, is the continuously unfolding expression of this ageless Principle, Love. Man cannot deteriorate, degenerate, or go backward. He can only progress higher and higher. He can know himself only as God knows him, in full possession at all times of the spiritual faculties with which his heavenly Father has endowed him. He is the changeless expression of changeless Mind, forever perfect.

I have found, when tempted to attribute discord to some humanly projected cause, that if I'll stop and ask myself, What am I believing? What am I accepting? this helps break the mesmerism of the lie. It also helps give me a clearer understanding of God as the only cause. And because this cause is good, there can be no inharmonious effect, regardless of what the carnal mind would have me believe or how many material so-called laws it would attach to me.

As we truly listen to God and to what He is revealing to us of our genuine status as His children, we become more spiritually progressive in our demonstration of Christian Science. This song

of the Psalmist could well be our prayer: "Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my strength, and my redeemer."⁷

¹ Rom. 12:2; ² *The New Testament in Modern English* (New York: The Macmillan Co., 1972); ³ *Science and Health*, p. 324; ⁴ Rom. 8:7; ⁵ *The First Church of Christ, Scientist, and Miscellany*, p. 213; ⁶ Luke 2:46, 47; ⁷ Ps. 19:14.

Waiting On God Heals Wishful Thinking

RUSSELL D. ROBINSON

"I can't wait until Thursday when my tests will be over!"

"I'll be glad when I'm through with that teacher!"

"When I get a job, then I'll be happy!"

"If only I could get away from home and be on my own!"

Each of these statements assumes the existence of some adverse or less than happy condition. They indicate the belief that good will come later—that happiness is therefore postponed. In this way mortal mind's suggestions would keep us dissatisfied, discouraged, and miserable, blinding us to present good.

Like a child facing the days and weeks before Christmas, we accept the belief that some future event will bring the joy and happiness we don't have now. Tomorrow, next week, next year—I'll be happy, I'll be glad, I'll be relieved, I'll be healed, and so on. Of course, one should continue to expect good, but if such anticipation closes our eyes to the good already at hand, we are being hoodwinked.

In sharp contrast, the Bible shows us another kind of waiting. "Wait on the Lord," the Psalmist urges. "Be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the Lord."¹

What does it mean to "wait on the Lord"? Surely it doesn't

mean stoic acceptance of some erroneous condition or situation, nor does it mean endless endurance in the face of postponed good. Rather, to wait on the Lord involves standing with the spiritual conviction of present good even when the evidence points to the contrary. How else could we be of good courage? How else could we strengthen our hearts? Waiting needs to be accompanied by confidence that good is even now at hand.

The Bible makes clear the reward for having spiritual conviction in the face of adversity: present joy—joy in the assurance of God's presence and power as a right-now fact. Christian Scientists study the Bible daily to gain a clearer and fuller conviction of this truth. They learn to wait on the Lord as they accept the fact that God, the divine Mind—Life, Truth, Love, the very Principle of existence—is the only creator and the universal cause of all that is. In Mind, good is never postponed, diminished, interrupted, blocked, frustrated, or in short supply.

The Bible opens with a magnificent prose poem of creation, asserting that God made everything "and, behold, it was very good"² and that man is made in the very image and likeness of God. The Bible concludes in the final chapters of the Apocalypse of John with "a new heaven and a new earth,"³ again perceived in untainted perfection. Between these powerful statements of the goodness and perfection of creation, the Scriptures record the lives of men and women who were sustained, protected, healed, and reformed as they learned to wait on the Lord, acknowledge God's presence and power. Biblical accounts also tell us what happened to those who did not.

The biblical biography of Joseph, sold into slavery by his brothers and unjustly thrown into prison, makes clear that Joseph throughout his experience waited on God "and that which he did, the Lord made it to prosper."⁴ If he had approached these trials with "When I get out of slavery . . . , " "When I get out of prison . . . , " he might very well have stagnated in self-pity and self-inflicted misery. But, waiting on God, maintaining his spiritual conviction of God's present goodness, Joseph was the most loyal servant he knew how to be; he was the most helpful prisoner. He did not get bogged down with either impatient or indifferent waiting for some hollow promise of later good.

More than any other biblical figure, Jesus stands as the shining example of one who saw and demonstrated present good. He waited on God so completely that he was identified with the Christ. Instantly the sick were healed in response to his acknowledgment of present, divine reality. It did not matter how many years the counterclaim had gone on—twelve, eighteen, even thirty-eight years—or if the blindness had been from birth, or if Lazarus had lain in the grave four days. Whatever the lie confronting Jesus, he could see through the belief of postponed good to the fact of present perfection. And the human situation then conformed in marked degree to the divine reality.

Consider the Master's attitude toward his disciple Simon. Simon had shown himself to be impetuous, quick to anger, vacillating. Yet Jesus renamed him Peter—"rock." In addition to recognizing Simon's spiritual perception of the Christ, did Jesus see as already present the rocklike qualities that were Simon's—see the courage, strength, fearlessness, and dedication that would later characterize his Christian leadership?

Christian Science acknowledges that good is always now. Spiritual man, the image and likeness of God, good, expresses and manifests good now. This truth is as true this instant as it will ever be. Our demonstration of this truth begins with our recognition of the spiritual fact of present perfection. Truth won't be more true tomorrow or next week than it is right now. Love won't be more real in the future than it is at this moment. Spirit won't be more active next year than at this minute. Nor will Life be more vital or Soul more joyous and harmonious or Principle more perfect in the future than today.

Mrs. Eddy asks each of us pointedly, "Are we really grateful for the good already received?" "Then," she assures us, "we shall avail ourselves of the blessings we have, and thus be fitted to receive more."⁵ But how craftily the serpent's argument with its deceptive promise of some future joy would close our eyes to the blessings at hand!

Let's not be fooled. Rather, like Joseph and Christ Jesus, let us wait on the Lord—be so intent on magnifying good, on seeing and expanding our concept of perfection right here—that we will not be tempted by the suggestion of some better beyond of time or place.

This falsehood reaches its climax in the religious teaching that postpones good until after death, a supposed entry into a beyond where good always prevails. It argues that one has to die to see good or be good or have good!

So next time the argument comes to you, "When I . . . then I'll be happy," recognize it for what it is, mortal mind's opening salvo to make you miserable now, to set you up as a wishful thinker. One cannot find joy and peace and health now while believing that good is absent but will come later. Waiting on the Lord, we can stay with the spiritual fact of perfection here and now and demonstrate that fact. Mrs. Eddy's message is plain: "You can never demonstrate spirituality until you declare yourself to be immortal and understand that you are so. Christian Science is absolute; it is neither behind the point of perfection nor advancing towards it; it is at this point and must be practised therefrom. Unless you fully perceive that you are the child of God, hence perfect, you have no Principle to demonstrate and no rule for its demonstration."⁶

¹ Ps. 27:14; ² Gen. 1:31; ³ Rev. 21:1; ⁴ Gen. 39:23; ⁵ *Science and Health*, p. 3; ⁶ *The First Church of Christ, Scientist, and Miscellany*, p. 242.

Our Spiritual El Dorado

DESMOND E. MAC-KWASHIE

According to legend, the city of Manoa in South America abounded in gold and precious jewels. It was the objective of early Spanish conquerors and European explorers and was known as El Dorado. Later the name was applied to any place rich in wealth and opportunities.

There is an El Dorado in which we can find all the precious jewels of Life, God: health, peace, joy, wisdom, prosperity, security, integrity, and completeness.

Mrs. Eddy writes: "Dost thou 'love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind'? This command includes much, even the surrender of all merely material sensation, affection, and worship. This is the El Dorado of Christianity." She continues, "It involves the Science of Life, and recognizes only the divine control of Spirit, in which Soul is our master, and material sense and human will have no place."¹

We can start today on our journey toward this goal.

Sincere, prayerful work is needed for us to understand the real man in perfect unity with the Father, divine Life, and to demonstrate increasingly the perfection of being. In this work the Bible, and *Science and Health* by Mrs. Eddy, are unfailing guides, showing us how we can have inexhaustible spiritual riches.

Mrs. Eddy writes in *Retrospection and Introspection*, "Of this also rest assured, that books and teaching are but a ladder let down from the heaven of Truth and Love, upon which angelic thoughts ascend and descend, bearing on their pinions of light the Christ-spirit."² Thoughtful and dedicated study of the Bible and of *Science and Health* and the other writings of Mrs. Eddy, though not the end of our work, is a decidedly fruitful and necessary step in gaining spiritual understanding. We need consecrated moments each day to commune with God through these textbooks.

As we gain, through their study, the spiritual sense that fulfills the law of Love, we shut the door on material sense and all its resultant discord and pain. We enter into the blessedness and kingdom of our Father, God. We are transformed, as the apostle said we must be, through the renewal of our mind.

The Science of Christ reveals material existence as a temporal dream of the physical senses and leads thought away from contemplation of life in matter into the joyous understanding and proof of spiritual reality. We know we are on this road to spiritual understanding when we cease to crave material things in themselves and look, instead, for the spiritual ideas behind whatever the human needs seem to be. Our emotional feelings and affections become subordinate to deeper spiritual love. We cherish the spiritual ideas of Mind more than the shadowy objects of material sense. And we rejoice in the proofs of health, harmony, and spiritual power. These are all signs that we are approaching our goal. We are beginning

to see that as children of God we really are at the standpoint of spiritual perfection, reflecting Spirit and Life, governed by God, Soul, alone.

Unlike the explorers who failed to find the material El Dorado, we are sure to reach our goal in the recognition of Spirit's divine control. The testimonies of healing published in the Christian Science periodicals and those given at Wednesday testimony meetings in Churches of Christ, Scientist, are some of the numberless witnesses to the "love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God."³

As we work earnestly for spiritual understanding, we catch impressive views of real being and have a foretaste of its wealth and divine beauty. This is manifested in improved health, better morals, a more constant joy and consistent supply of good. This inspires, strengthens, and quickens our steps. We can trust the wise man's words: "If thou criest after knowledge, and liftest up thy voice for understanding; if thou seekest her as silver, and searchest for her as for hid treasures; then shalt thou understand the fear of the Lord, and find the knowledge of God."⁴

We can be sure that if we have the right desire to submit ourselves to the control of Spirit, if we pray and work daily for spiritual understanding and demonstration and persist despite fear or discouragement, nothing can stop us from attaining the heaven of Soul.

There is a spiritual law for every right desire and for all honest labor. Mrs. Eddy writes, "Our heavenly Father never destined mortals who seek for a better country to wander on the shores of time disappointed travellers, tossed to and fro by adverse circumstances, inevitably subject to sin, disease, and death." She continues, "Divine Love waits and pleads to save mankind—and awaits with warrant and welcome, grace and glory, the earth-weary and heavy-laden who find and point the path to heaven."⁵

¹ *Science and Health*, p. 9; ² *Ret.*, p. 85; ³ I John 3:1; ⁴ Prov. 2:3-5;
⁵ *Message to The Mother Church for 1902*, p. 11.

Let Love Label You

SARAH P. DUNNING

Miss—Mrs.—Ms.? Married, single, separated, divorced, widowed—often we check the appropriate box on a form and thereby label ourselves.

While it may be useful to follow established procedures in identifying ourselves humanly, it is more important that we affirm continuously our true identity as divine Love's complete spiritual idea.

We learn in Christian Science the difference between our true identity, made in the image of God, entirely spiritual, and the illusion of a human being made of matter. If we accept the label of materiality and what this label implies, we immediately subject ourselves to the kinds of conditions inherent in materiality: sickness, poverty, depression; we accept the suggestion that we are solitary mortal persons forced to work alone to overcome various barriers.

Christian Science shows us that the struggle to surmount mortal labels and their consequences is lifted by the light of the Christ, which reveals our spiritual identity, forever innocent and loved. In *Science and Health* Mrs. Eddy defines man as "the compound idea of infinite Spirit; the spiritual image and likeness of God; the full representation of Mind."¹

A growing understanding of what this definition means, together with a willingness to let go of old beliefs, begins to release us to enjoy true freedom, which in fact we already have. Christ Jesus assured us, "Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom."² No hopeless struggle implied there. Just the overflowing evidence of Love's bestowing to Love's cherished child.

Have the labels "poor," "insufficient funds," "credit revoked" been attached to you? "The compound idea of infinite Spirit"

—man's real identity—is eternally supplied with abundance. However, if our efforts in Christian Science are for an increase in material substance, we will be disappointed. Instead we need to turn wholeheartedly to God, Spirit, as the source and substance of our supply. When we are sincerely grateful for every single evidence of God's constant outpouring of good—when we magnify good—our blessings are magnified. No mere “positive thinking” here. This magnification of good requires humility, a willingness to listen to God's direction, and the childlike perspective that sees good everywhere.

How can we deal with the labels “stymied,” “unemployable”? The image and likeness of Life is the very living of Life and includes freedom, infinite progression. Fresh careers and opportunities to serve God in widening spheres of activity open harmoniously as we perceive this truth and listen for divine guidance. Suggestions of timidity and inadequacy can be replaced with the conviction that Life's purpose for us is altogether good and right now actively in operation.

Have you been accepting a label of “undereducated” or “over-qualified”? Man reflects Mind's infinite intelligence; therefore intelligence is always available to us, imparting the ideas we need every moment. We can replace suggestions of lack of education, too much education, stultification, with sparkling inspiration. The humble, sincere desire to serve God in His way opens our thought to divine Mind's wisdom and guidance. The world hungers not only for intellectual pioneering and creativity but, even more, for the tender intuitiveness that perceives another's need and speaks from spiritual understanding.

What about the label “lonely”? The image and likeness of Soul manifests completeness, joy, the true idea of home, and our recognition of this can remove the label of loneliness.

Holding fast to the truth of the absolute allness of good, God, we realize that joy and completeness are ever-present qualities of God; they aren't dependent upon someone “out there.” Self-love gives way to deep caring for others' needs, and our desires change from more having to more opportunities for giving. We begin to realize that because Soul is All and we are Soul's expression, joy is irrepressible. We see that because Truth is All, the mirage called

depression can be vanquished by the clear understanding of its nothingness.

Ultimately, the finite labels pinned to us must be shed. Our true identity is the cherished child of God. We can let divine Love's label of perfection begin to shine through our lives.

¹ *Science and Health*, p. 591; ² Luke 12:32.

THE COLLECTABLE AND UNCOLLECTABLES

I proudly put my record on the spindle of personal sense
and turned up the volume.

"I was right and you were wrong," so went the lyrics
of my favorite song.

"Someone was wrong and it wasn't me."

Oh, I listened to that record frequently.

Then I realized there was a flip side I hadn't heard before.
It was called "Now Who's in the Wrong?"

and I didn't like its tone

But I got the message. It was quite clear.

Any wrong is mine if I've given it ear.

If somewhere there's a fool—if with that I can agree,
then I've taken error in, and the foolish one is me.

I'm throwing out the old records
and now have as my goal

Listening more intently to the harmonies of Soul.

Oh, I'm tempted to listen, but not for long
to an old melody, an old self-righteous song.

But I'm building a new, a most priceless collection—

One God,

One good, guiding

Every selection.

DORIS LUBIN

GIGO

CHARLES EDWARD LANGTON

GIGO is an acronym used by computer programmers. It means "garbage in, garbage out." In other words, if faulty instructions or data are introduced into a computer, the computer's output will be faulty.

Human beings do not need to be programmed like a computer in order to function. However, there can be little doubt that whatever is cherished in thought or introduced into our consciousness determines our experience—our "output."

Harmony and right solutions become evident when faulty thinking about any situation is replaced with correct scientific reasoning. Our Leader, Mrs. Eddy, states, "Those instructed in Christian Science have reached the glorious perception that God is the only author of man."¹ She points out elsewhere: "Matter is an error of statement. This error in the premise leads to errors in the conclusion in every statement into which it enters."² Just as a sound computer program and data will produce correct answers, sound thinking about ourselves produces harmony in each aspect of our lives. In proportion as our consciousness is filled with the premise of man's spiritual perfection and with "the glorious perception that God is the only author of man," inharmonies vanish.

And just how does one's consciousness become filled with these glorious perceptions? When a computer programmer finds that the instructions he prepared for a computer do not function as he believed they would, he goes back over each instruction, step by step, and traces the logic of his program. This is called debugging the program. When we find some form of discord in our experience—in thoughts we had believed were correct—we need to "debug" our consciousness. By "bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ,"³ we can eliminate unwholesome thoughts. Mrs. Eddy writes: "Watch, and pray daily that evil suggestions, in whatever guise, take no root in your thought nor bear fruit. Oft-

times examine yourselves, and see if there be found anywhere a deterrent of Truth and Love, and 'hold fast that which is good.'"⁴

Good thoughts, those that have God's allness as a basis, can only produce harmonious results. GIGO then could be viewed with a new meaning: "good in, good out."

¹ *Science and Health*, p. 29; ² *ibid.*, p. 277; ³ II Cor. 10:5; ⁴ *The First Church of Christ, Scientist, and Miscellany*, pp. 128-129.

"... we draw our staying power from divine Love . . ."

We Must Have Staying Qualities

FRANKIE L. THOMAS

A young mother with small children was grievously discouraged over a lingering difficulty. She wrote her father a lengthy letter, telling him of her problem. Because he was a kind and gentle person, she eagerly awaited his reply, which she thought would be a long, sympathetic letter.

When the reply arrived, it was concise: "Dear Daughter, You must have staying qualities. I love you. Dad."

Just what she needed! She must not give up!

How often our progress seems interrupted by suggestions of fear and discouragement. We cry out, "It's hopeless!" Then comes the message of persistency: We must express staying power, keep our faith in God. We must not look back. We must be grateful for the good we have already received, be joyful, and expect a miracle!

Yes, a miracle, for Mrs. Eddy tells us in *Science and Health*, "A miracle fulfils God's law, but does not violate that law."¹ The young mother did continue her prayer and fasting (abstaining from a material view of things), and soon her difficulty was resolved, permanently healed. This was proof to her that healing is often very near when it seems the most impossible.

Many years have passed since this experience, but the words of her father "You must have staying qualities" have returned again and again to her thought, and she has found them helpful.

Sometimes we may not have completed some creative work or some important activity. Perhaps a loving thought has not been put into action, or we have yet to see some desired evidence of healing. We may be certain that as we persist in holding to the truth and living according to the scientific facts, which are inherent in our true selfhood, we can demonstrate the supremacy of divine Truth in every situation.

In one of her classes Mrs. Eddy asked a pupil what she would do if a case she was treating did not readily yield. The woman mentioned two things she would do. Mrs. Eddy asked the question a third time. Finally, according to the account, "the woman said, 'I suppose I'd give it up.' 'And that,' Mrs. Eddy said, 'is just what you should *not* do.'"²

Many healings are instantaneous, but if our healing is not instant, this is no cause to give up or have a depressed outlook. There are always wonderful new ideas to grasp. The Psalmist evidently realized this when he prayed, "Open thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law."³

Christian Science answers that prayer by presenting the scientific understanding of God as All-in-all. God is the only creator. And man is God's image, His unfettered representative, whose purpose is to evidence perfect manhood in love, purity, wisdom, health, and holiness.

Our need is to develop a more positive and clearer sense of these facts. Because God, Spirit, is All, there is no evil to contest His allness and convey the false impression that we are frail mortals living a precarious life in matter.

Man is forever at one with God; therefore he cannot be suffering, sick, or sinful. He is not insecure, frustrated, or faced with lingering or unsolvable problems. He is not burdened today, nor was he yesterday, nor will he be tomorrow. Right now and forever man is complete, perfect, and satisfied. He never loses the consciousness of his unity with God.

It is important that we understand our spiritual perfection and not fear matter or incline toward faith in material methods of heal-

ing. Is there a power greater than God? God is the only power and He never fails!

Loyalty divided between Spirit and matter will only delay healing. Jesus cautioned us against vacillating when he said: "No man can serve two masters . . . Ye cannot serve God and mammon."⁴

Sometimes healing is delayed by apathy or resistance. We may recognize this phase of error when we believe we find reading the Bible Lesson⁵ boring; or perhaps when someone quotes a passage from Mrs. Eddy's writings or the Bible, with the desire to encourage us, and we respond, "Oh, I know that by heart." In either case we are resisting the truth.

Christian Science exposes the powerlessness of this negative influence of animal magnetism. It is only a belief that we have minds of our own apart from the one Mind, God, which can willfully hinder our spiritual regeneration and progress. In fact, it is natural for us to be receptive to and love the truth. Truth being all, that is all man can really know or want to know. Actually, there is no mortal mind to resist the truth and deprive us of our God-given freedom and dominion.

Through gratitude and unselfed love, we bring joy, inspiration, and adventure to our Christianly scientific prayer and study. The writer of the book of Hebrews encourages us: "Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompence of reward. For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise."⁶

According to material thinking, substance is composed of objects or things; possession of these things suggests wealth, and their absence suggests lack. If we have been wrestling unsuccessfully with chronic lack, we can, with thanksgiving and joy, accept the fact that man abides in the kingdom of heaven, where there is no lack. Any good that may seem to be lacking in the illusive, mortal sense of things is already plentifully present as spiritual substance.

The power and presence of God sustain us and supply our every human need, whether that need is for financial supply, health, or peace of mind. But it is necessary to do more than merely repeat words. We must put the spiritual truths into practice, or we could very well create for ourselves a false sense of fulfillment.

We can and must patiently persevere in challenging material

sense testimony of suffering or inharmony on the premise that God, Spirit, is All, and there is no power beside Him. As we continue to affirm perfect God and perfect man, this fact will help us clearly establish in our thought the omnipresence of divine Love. Then pain and disease cannot continue. In *Science and Health* Mrs. Eddy writes, "By lifting thought above error, or disease, and contending persistently for truth, you destroy error."⁷

Christ Jesus was able to heal because of his patient, persistent realization, through prayer, of God's fatherhood and man's perfection as His child. Jesus alerted his listeners to their need to persist in knowing the truth: "If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; and ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."⁸

If gloom and doubt overshadow our confidence and hope because of a protracted struggle with some problem, we must remember that the work we have done has not been ineffective. Every scientific truth understood and affirmed, every loving thought and deed, have lessened the difficulty in some degree. Error has not the intelligence or power to continue in the face of the Christ, Truth. We must press on with unwavering devotion to the truth of being, which will inevitably lead to permanent victory.

Dozens of strokes may be required to fell a tree, but the last stroke that brings the tree down is no more effective by itself than the first few. Every stroke has its definite effect.

Persevering in the truth requires labor. When we have obtained the healing that demanded our labor, love, and perseverance, we will look back and see that the problem was really a stepping-stone. Through our scientific self-purification, the false concept with its unloving thoughts and deeds has been laid aside to a degree, and we are seeing more of the spiritual man we really are.

As we draw our staying power from divine Love, we find ourselves practicing the virtues that are often hidden by a mortal, limited view. Then we are in full agreement with the words from the Bible: "We are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast unto the end."⁹

¹ *Science and Health*, p. 134; ² *We Knew Mary Baker Eddy*, First Series (Boston: The Christian Science Publishing Society, 1943), p. 26; ³ Ps. 119:18; ⁴ Matt. 6:24; ⁵ in the *Christian Science Quarterly*; ⁶ Heb. 10:35, 36; ⁷ *Science and Health*, p. 400; ⁸ John 8:31, 32; ⁹ Heb. 3:14.

The Traveler

Becky Votaw (written at age 9)



I had always felt that I was very fortunate to have not only two grandmothers but a great-grandmother as well.

One day when I came home from school, my mother told me that my great-grandmother had passed on. At first I was very sad and cried. But then my mother and I began to talk. My mother told me that if someone I loved were taking a walk and suddenly turned the corner and I couldn't see him, I wouldn't be sad. I would know that he was going right on. This made me feel better, but I still needed to know more. Since my mother had other work to do, I took my copy of *Science and Health* by Mrs. Eddy and went off by myself.

My Christian Science Sunday School teacher had taught us how to look up words in the Glossary in *Science and Health*. That's where Mrs. Eddy has defined certain important words. First, I looked up the word "death." Part of the definition Mrs. Eddy gives is "An illusion, the lie of life in matter."¹ Next, I looked up "man." I found that part of that definition was "the spiritual image and likeness of God."² And last I looked up "Life." The Glossary referred me to page 468, where I read, "Life is without beginning and without end." Right away, all my feeling of sadness went away.

My great-grandmother had traveled all over the world. Now I told my mother that to me this was just as if she had gone away on another trip.

¹ *Science and Health*, p. 584; ² *ibid.*, p. 591.

Editorials



GEOFFREY J. BARRATT

Editor

NAOMI PRICE

Associate Editor

NATHAN A. TALBOT

Associate Editor

You and Our Periodicals Today

What is The Christian Science Publishing Society and its output really about?

Spiritual sense sees further than the superficial human sense of editors, printing equipment, ink, and paper. The Christian Science Publishing Society is here to announce the continuing truth and immortal value of the revelation of divine being.

Mary Baker Eddy saw the truth of being with ideal clarity. And what did she see? To use her own words in *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures*, she realized "Life is the everlasting I AM, the Being who was and is and shall be, whom nothing can erase."¹ To the extent we comprehend the nature and purpose of Christian Science, we know that we have here what is, at its core, the most significant publishing operation there is.

Our activity is not just human. It's an outcome of divine Truth. It is not merely a denominational publishing business among others around the world. It's as unique as the revelation of Christian Science itself. What is published is an evidence of the presence and action, here and everywhere, of "the everlasting I AM." The importance of The Christian Science Publishing Society is not, then, simply religious. It is spiritual. Our impulsion is divine impulsion, not just human enthusiasm for a teaching we believe in and wish to share with mankind.

We face economic challenges, and the challenge to find a wider readership. But there isn't one challenge we're faced with that can resist Truth, Life. The more we all align ourselves with Life, with "the Being who was and is and shall be, whom nothing can erase,"

the more we'll demonstrate in our operations the unerasable nature of Life. Life implies bursting growth and vitality. And our growing delight in the vitality of divine unfoldment will rid us of any traces of sluggishness or decline.

Though we may sometimes speak of The Mother Church, The First Church of Christ, Scientist, and the Field almost as though they were two different entities, they are inseparable. Our publications and your publications are the same publications! It couldn't be any other way.

We share the aim—we here, and you our writers and readers—of having *The Christian Science Journal*, *Sentinel*, and *Heralds* show how Christian Science can be related to mankind's current problems. This in no way diminishes the emphasis we must give to the healing of physical problems. We feel, however, that it is especially necessary to be publicly minded in the times of ferment we are living through. To have a spiritual outlook is to have a universal outlook in place of a self-interested or inturned perspective.

We will continue not only to strengthen and widen the periodicals' vision but to have them as attractive as is consonant with economy. And to bear in mind both our longtime subscribers and those who are having their first contact with the Science of Christ.

We're sometimes asked, What is the best way for me to use the Christian Science periodicals?

In general terms, people will find their own individual way to approach each new issue, or to use back issues. (Perhaps you would like to write and tell us of your own experiences. Maybe we can share those experiences through publishing them.) It's complimentary when readers say they don't like parting with a particular back issue because they've found it so valuable. But in most cases it's the copies of recent date that should attract our attention.

Sometimes subscribers let issues accumulate because they haven't had enough time, they feel, to sit down and read a particular magazine right through. For many people, finding the opportunity for cover-to-cover reading of every issue may seem a somewhat daunting proposition. However, if a reader is spiritually stimulated by just one article or editorial, or encouraged and made more thankful by a testimony of healing, then that particular magazine

has performed one of its basic jobs and has been a worthwhile investment for its purchaser. And it will have more value still as the reader hands it along.

It is a fundamental support to our publishing operation when our subscribers accept into their understanding and life the truths of being that they glean from their reading. That this will help produce better articles, more effective healing, sturdier spiritual thinking, is clear. As the good effects of Christian Science are seen and felt by those unacquainted with it, then they will want to know more of this teaching.

"The Lord gave the word: great was the company of those that published it,"¹ the Psalmist said. This passage is chiseled boldly along an outside wall of the Publishing House. We can join in realizing God as the Giver of the truth of being and as the mover behind our unified involvement with The Christian Science Publishing Society. And greater will be the company of those helped by the published Word of Truth.

GEOFFREY J. BARRATT

¹ *Science and Health*, p. 290; ² Ps. 68:11.

Stifling Explosive Feelings

The Christ is a redeeming power in human consciousness. It is a saving presence that extinguishes fiery, mortal feelings. It quenches inflamed materialistic thought. Each of us has the inherent ability to respond to the Christ and maintain a settled, poised quality of thought. Even in the face of provocation, a very natural and unruffled composure can be ours. A calm and stable attitude grows out of an understanding of our relationship with God. Serenity and stillness, rooted in spiritual sense, choke out the explosive claims of erring mortal mind and defuse its little bombs.

Undisturbed peace is an attribute of God, Soul. The Christ reveals to receptive thought this ever-present, all-embracing peace of Soul. It is our love for Soul that outweighs the beliefs of anger

and fear. The Psalmist could sing, "Great peace have they which love thy law: and nothing shall offend them."¹

Some suppose that the only answer to hostile, emotional feelings is an attempt to hold them back, perhaps with the use of willpower or even drugs. A different line of reasoning is to let off the steam rather than keeping anger, resentment, or envy bottled up.

Neither method actually solves the problem. And in fact, both tend to perpetuate and foster the belief that angered mortal feelings have power and can rule an individual. We need to do more than control such feelings. We must eliminate them. And Christian Science shows us that they are fully expunged only as we yield to the Christ—as we allow the Christ to genuinely transform consciousness. This transformation brings to light the fact that evil has no basis in reality. God, Soul, constitutes reality. Soul feeds its idea, man, with good and sinless and harmonious thoughts, and man thrives on such nourishment. Understanding this, we need never be responsive to nor governed by the suggestions of emotional material sense.

The effective way of putting out a fire is to deprive it of air—of the oxygen that feeds it. The flame cannot survive once it has lost an elementary ingredient giving it activity. Inflamed mortal feelings are fed by error; that is, they are kindled, in belief, by the lie that man has a mind of his own capable of hatred or rivalry. This error is extinguished as divine Love floods our consciousness with the substance and strength of goodness. Mrs. Eddy explains, "The way to extract error from mortal mind is to pour in truth through flood-tides of Love."²

We must go beyond even an earnest human effort to contain error. As noble or even useful as such personal effort may be, we need to expose the lie that man has a mind capable of angered or evil thoughts. We won't find harmony by covering up or hiding evil. We will find peace only by submitting to the allness of Soul. Writing of those who fail to properly handle evil thoughts, Mrs. Eddy tells us, "This mistaken way, of hiding sin in order to maintain harmony, has licensed evil, allowing it first to smoulder, and then break out in devouring flames."³

Explosive thoughts lose their hiding place—their false appearance

of reality—as the Christ brings to light in consciousness the ever-present nature of Soul. A deep love for Soul's allness redeems human thought, exposing evil as powerless—extinguishing the thoughts or deeds that would singe our fellowman. Because God is All, there is no evil. Because Soul is Mind, the thoughts man expresses are peaceful and pure.

The therapy that discourages bottling up either frustrations or anger and encourages releasing those elements of thought, never frees the individual from them. In other words, to react or explode offers us no more healing than conventional human efforts to restrain harmful emotion. Mrs. Eddy writes: "The pent-up elements of mortal mind need no terrible detonation to free them. Envy, rivalry, hate need no temporary indulgence that they be destroyed through suffering; they should be stifled from lack of air and freedom."⁴

Instead of giving freedom to evil thoughts on the one hand or trying to merely contain them on the other, we can stifle or smother them, just like the flame, by divesting them of their fuel. It is the power of the Christ that washes away the belief of evil. This cleansing, purifying process in thought awakens us to the presence and peace of Soul. It replaces false elements of thought, not with a worldly kind of temporary peace but with the very substance of Soul. Referring to this Christly gift, Jesus promised: "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid."⁵

Every angry thought rests upon fear, the fear that something good can be taken from us. The Christ relieves us of such fear. Its regenerating power brings to light our eternal unity with Soul and heals the temptation to suppose that man has been separated from his perpetual and eternal source of good.

True consciousness is divine and at peace. It has never been shaken. It is preserved and permanently blessed by Soul.

NATHAN A. TALBOT

¹ Ps. 119:165; ² *Science and Health*, p. 201; ³ *The First Church of Christ, Scientist, and Miscellany*, p. 211; ⁴ *Miscellaneous Writings*, p. 356; ⁵ John 14:27.



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Testimonies of Christian Science Healing

I should like to express my deep gratitude for the teachings of Christian Science. Through the study of the Bible and of *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures* by Mary Baker Eddy, there have been many instances of the restoration of health, and inharmonies of different kinds have been healed. This study also removes a false sense of responsibility and enables one to place complete reliance on God.

In *Science and Health* we read (p. 494), "Divine Love always has met and always will meet every human need." This has been demonstrated in our family many times.

Some years ago I was suddenly stricken with severe head pains. A Christian Science practitioner was called. He began prayerful work, which bore fruitage within a few hours. This occurred on a Wednesday, and on Sunday I was in my place at my branch church as Second Reader—completely free and very grateful.

I should also like to tell of a healing my husband had. He was supervising the installation of a cable for the telephone company in a mountain area. A backhoe was being used to dig a trench for the cable. It disturbed a hornet's nest. My husband was standing close by, and immediately the hornets covered him from head to toe. Some of the men came to help him beat them off. They begged to take him to a hospital. My husband declined and asked that he be taken to a shady spot to lie down. This was done, and he began at once to declare God's ever-presence, His power, and His love for all mankind. He lay there for about forty min-

The statements made in these testimonies with regard to healings have been carefully verified. The original testimonies and their respective verifications are on file for reference with The Christian Science Publishing Society.—THE EDITORS.

utes, and then he arose, completely free from all pain and swelling. In a few days not a mark of the stings showed. He was deeply grateful for this further proof that man is never separated from God and that God is available in every circumstance.

Before I knew of Christian Science, I was beset by many fears of many things. Christian Science interprets Bible promises that enable us to overcome fear. God's promises are always available and are always fulfilled. Through the study of Christian Science I have been able to stand fast when difficulties seemed to be overwhelming. The truth of man's inseparability from his divine origin, God, never fails. I am grateful for an understanding of God's great love for all mankind.

I am especially grateful for Mrs. Eddy's courage in writing *Science and Health*, which is indispensable in our study of the Bible.

The Christian Science periodicals are welcome visitors to our home daily, weekly, monthly. We read them with much interest and benefit and gratitude for the spiritual enlightenment they bring.

I am an active church member, and for this I am very grateful. Class teaching by a consecrated teacher has been a great blessing.

(Mrs.) LOUISE S. O'CONNELL
Santa Paula, California

The foregoing testimony written by my wife, telling of my healing when I was stung by hornets, is correct just as she wrote it. I am very grateful for Christian Science; its teachings have blessed us in many ways for many years.

STEPHEN C. O'CONNELL



Several years ago, when I was taking my grandson to school early one Monday morning, a car came through a stop sign and hit my car on the driver's side. I didn't know anything had hit me. On Thursday evening I awoke in the emergency ward of a hospital and asked where I was. My husband, who was just outside the door, came to my bedside. Then I asked that I be taken to a nursing home for Christian Scientists. My husband relayed my request to the physician in charge. My husband was not a Chris-

tian Scientist but was very much in accord with my being a student, and he wanted to grant my request.

Three hours later I was taken by ambulance to the nursing home. I recall the peace I felt and the love with which I was surrounded the moment I arrived. The healing did not come quickly, but I know there was healing taking place in many ways, constantly. There were broken bones and skull lacerations, but from the time I asked that a Christian Science practitioner be called, I never felt any pain. I am so grateful for the faithful prayer of the practitioner as well as the expert care of the Christian Science nurses at the nursing home. I am also very grateful that my grandson was without injury.

As we all prayed to do as Mrs. Eddy admonishes in *Science and Health* (p. 391), "Blot out the images of mortal thought and its beliefs in sickness and sin," the visible signs of injury lessened. Complete use of the limbs that had been broken was restored. One day, because of my great desire to play the piano, I asked the nurse to push my wheelchair up to the piano. I reached for the keyboard and played the hymn "Onward, Christian soldiers" (*Christian Science Hymnal*, No. 264). Never had I played with so much gratitude. From then on my recovery was more rapid.

All that is left of the memory of this experience is the great gratitude I feel for the healing power of Christian Science. I kept in thought, much of the time, many statements from the Bible and Mrs. Eddy's writings, especially this one (*Science and Health*, p. 14): "Entirely separate from the belief and dream of material living, is the Life divine, revealing spiritual understanding and the consciousness of man's dominion over the whole earth." Also, what Mrs. Eddy writes in *Miscellaneous Writings* (p. 277), "No evidence before the material senses can close my eyes to the scientific proof that God, good, is supreme."

Sometime later I learned the physician had been reluctant to release me from the hospital because they had diagnosed pneumonia and said I couldn't live twenty-four hours without hospital care. I didn't know they had diagnosed pneumonia; neither did those at the nursing home for Christian Scientists. In less than an hour, as I was being transferred, the symptoms of pneumonia vanished.

One of the references from the Bible that had such healing effect

is (Isa. 26:3), "Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee." Also, Psalm 34. My gratitude to God is great for His Son, Christ Jesus, and for Mrs. Eddy's recognition of the distinction between Jesus and the Christ, Truth, which he demonstrated. She in turn gave us the revelation of divine Principle with the scientific rules that enable us to obey Jesus' commandment to heal. Science reveals to us our complete and satisfying existence as the children of God.

(Mrs.) EVA E. NELSON
Denver, Colorado



In sharing this testimony my only desire is to help others waken to their true spiritual being here and now. Christian Science has been my way of life for a long time. I have had many healings proving God's omnipotence, and I have seen many others healed as well.

Within recent years I was stricken with a crippling condition. As I had had so many proofs of God's healing power, there was never a doubt that this too would be healed. I sought no medical diagnosis. Although it was difficult to move about and there was much pain, I refused to entertain a belief that God's child could be crippled. Our beloved Leader, Mary Baker Eddy, tells us in *Science and Health* (p. 261), "Hold thought steadfastly to the enduring, the good, and the true, and you will bring these into your experience proportionably to their occupancy of your thoughts." Moment by moment I had to forget the body, to turn from the picture of pain and disease and hold to "the good, and the true"—the realization of my perfection and freedom as God's child. A Christian Science practitioner was praying for me, and I began to make progress.

During this trial my only desire and hope was to awaken to perceive more clearly my unity with God, an important part of every Christian Science healing. When we feel our oneness with God, this is expressed in every avenue of our thought and life. I was also learning to love God as our great Master, Christ Jesus,

TESTIMONIES OF CHRISTIAN SCIENCE HEALING

told us to love Him—with all our hearts, and our neighbor as ourself. (See Matt. 22:37–39.)

The healing process seemed slow, but all the while my consciousness was becoming more spiritualized; the Bible and *Science and Health* were my constant companions, along with the *Christian Science Hymnal*. These words from Hymn No. 204 were comforting: “during the battle the victory claim.” And Hymn No. 135 offered great hope. One verse reads:

I fear no tribulation,
Since, whatsoe'er it be,
It makes no separation
Between my Lord and me:
Since Thou, my God and Father,
Dost claim me as Thine own,
I richly shall inherit
All good, from Thee alone.

I felt God’s presence enabling me to perform my duties. I missed only one Sunday church service and one branch church business meeting.

Gradually, pain began to recede; my body became free and agile, and I was completely healed. More than a year had passed, but I know that “one day is with the Lord as a thousand years” (II Pet. 3:8). My memories of that time are of the wonderful love, glory, and joy that came to me as I saw myself as His perfect likeness. My gratitude for Christian Science is unbounded. I now understand in a small measure why Paul could say (II Cor. 12:10), “I take pleasure in infirmities.” As we are tested in the fire of baptism, we are enabled to see proof of what our beloved Leader, Mrs. Eddy, says over and over in her writings: that man is immortal. We must study and pray to see that God’s perfect work is finished, and that man is truly the expression of this work. As we see this, we will do the works of which our Master, Christ Jesus, spoke (John 14:12): “He that believeth on me, the works that I I do shall he do also.” Each day is a new beginning in the beauty of holiness.

Now I can only say, “Thank you, Father-Mother God, for Your good works.” My heart is filled with gratitude for freedom to express the Christ, Truth, that our Master taught and lived, and

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which Mrs. Eddy gave us in the Science of the Christ. I am thankful for friends near and far for their love, and for the beautiful and helpful articles in our Christian Science periodicals.

(Mrs.) ALICE HOGEBOOM TRELEAVEN
San Mateo, California



[Original in Spanish]

"God is . . . a very present help in trouble" (Ps. 46:1). I came to understand the meaning of these words of the Psalmist when I had to face the sudden, unexpected passing of my husband. I sincerely prayed to God to sustain my daughters and me at this bitter time.

I immediately called a Christian Science practitioner, who came to our home. Her prayerful metaphysical work and her loving words helped us understand that we were the perfect daughters of God and that He was watching over us at all times.

A few hours after this bitter trial I discovered that my youngest daughter was on the verge of a breakdown. In spite of the disturbing claims of mortal mind, I sought refuge in God even more earnestly and denied the symptoms of a breakdown that appeared so real. The Christian Science practitioner took up the prayerful work again, and the error faded—returned to nothing. My daughter's fear of lack and of being forsaken was destroyed. Free of illness, and reflecting her perfect being in God, in a few days she was able to take a difficult examination at school, and she was able to continue her studies normally. In addition, we have never suffered lack of any kind; and, in fact, we were enriched on seeing ourselves surrounded with the expression by others of the Christly thoughts of sincerity and love.

I am grateful to God that I understood the inspired truth expressed by Mrs. Eddy in *Science and Health* (p. 473): "God is everywhere, and nothing apart from Him is present or has power." I am grateful to the practitioner for her unselfish and effective prayer.

(Mrs.) DORA CASSARINO DE LABRUZ
Montevideo, Uruguay

"From a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus" (II Tim. 3:15). As a child, I enjoyed the happy activity of attending Christian Science Sunday School. When I was about eleven, an opportunity came for me to prove, by myself, the truth of what I had been learning there.

At that time a number of warts appeared on my hands. Embarrassed, I began to keep my hands behind me or hidden in my pockets whenever possible at school. My mother prayed for the right healing thought and asked a Christian Science practitioner for help, but all to no apparent avail. Finally, after some time, she pointed out to me that I, too, had to participate in this Christian Science treatment, that I was old enough to do my share. I had to be willing to stop complaining and turn my thought to God. She encouraged me to do the healing work myself, saying that neither she nor the practitioner would give me prayerful treatment unless I asked for their help.

This was all I needed to begin to pray, acknowledging God's goodness and my own nature as the happy reflection of this goodness—truths I had learned in Sunday School. Gone were the embarrassment and complaining, which had only impressed the condition more firmly in my thought. And, within two weeks, gone were the warts—never to return.

For this early encouragement to pray and to be my own practitioner, I recently had occasion to be even more grateful.

When a tooth started twinging one day after I bit down on something hard, I went to the dentist, believing a filling had loosened. To my dismay, however, his study of an X ray led to a much different diagnosis: an abscessed condition. Feeling that removal of one tooth—which he deemed too far gone to save—plus a root canal operation on the two adjacent teeth constituted the best course of action, the dentist scheduled me for an appointment the very next day. Part of the fear I felt was due to my ignorance of what the condition meant. The dentist indicated there was no specific or single cause for such a condition. As he spoke, the words "curse causeless" came to my thought. I recognized them as from the Bible verse (Prov. 26:2), "As the bird by wandering, as the

swallow by flying, so the curse causeless shall not come." Here was immediate comfort and reassurance to turn my thought in the right direction!

I was on active military duty overseas. This seemed to preclude the possibility of my readily contacting a Christian Science practitioner. Nor was I sure that I might request to have the operation postponed to provide for Christian Science treatment. While I felt reluctant about asking this, I knew I should pray for myself. Alone in my barracks room, I again felt very fearful—and even a bit resentful at the thought of losing a tooth. So, with the aid of Concordances, I prayerfully read the Bible and Mrs. Eddy's writings until finally this phrase gave me assurance. I read in Isaiah (30:15), "In quietness and in confidence shall be your strength." I saw that no circumstance, no matter how dire, could shake my inner conviction that a correct understanding of God would heal—would bring about whatever adjustment was necessary to restore harmony.

Praying now to realize more of this healing understanding, I found another Bible verse (Ps. 71:8): "Let my mouth be filled with thy praise and with thy honour all the day." Although the Psalmist undoubtedly had songs of praise in thought, I chose to interpret the reference quite literally. Soon gaining peace about the situation, I turned in for a good night's rest.

The next day the dentist again made an X ray, preliminary to the operation. Comparing it with the first, for a long minute he just stood there—head cocked, one arm akimbo. Finally he turned to me and exclaimed, "I simply don't understand this! On the basis of this second X ray there's absolutely no justification for an operation: no indication of abscess whatever." All he could do was to advise me, somewhat in amazement, to return in six months for a normal checkup. This incident occurred several years ago, and there has been no evidence that the healing has been other than complete and permanent.

For these and numerous other healing experiences, and for the attendant spiritual awakening they bring, I am indeed grateful!

RICHARD LEE PETERS
Rockville, Maryland

"THE STORY OF JESUS" A BOOK FOR SHARING

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Christian Science Lectures

Everyone is cordially invited to these free lectures.

‡ Indicates Children's Room available during lectures. Details should be obtained locally.

ENGLAND

LONDON—London (First): Church, Sloane Ter., S.W.1., 3 p.m., Mon., Jan. 2.‡ "A New View of Prophecy" (Thorneloe)

SWITZERLAND

Zurich (First): Church, 4 Merkurstr., 3.30 p.m., Sat., Jan. 7.‡ In English. German translation 5 p.m. "A New View of Prophecy" (Thorneloe)

[These lectures are given by members of the Board of Lectureship of The Mother Church, The First Church of Christ, Scientist, in Boston, Massachusetts, U.S.A.]

VIRGIN ISLANDS

Charlotte Amalie (St. Thomas): Church, 6 Snegle Gade, 8 p.m., Fri., Feb. 3. "Your Unlimited Opportunities" (McGrew)

UNITED STATES

(Week of December 18 to 24)

ALABAMA—Montgomery: Civic Center, 3 Bibb and Commerce Sts., 3 p.m., Sun., Dec. 18.‡ "There's Only One Real Ego" (Correll)

CALIFORNIA—Garberville: Church, 531 Elm St., 3 p.m., Sun., Dec. 18.‡ "Claim Your Real Inheritance" (Tuttle)

Hemet: High School, Little Theatre, Stamford and Stetson, 3 p.m., Sun., Dec. 18.‡ "Use Your Spiritual Power" (Henderson)

FLORIDA—St. Petersburg (Second): Bayfront Center Auditorium, 400 First St., S., 3 p.m., Sun., Dec. 18. "No, You're Not Trapped!" (Leever)

MAINE—Portland: Church, 61 Neal St., 8 p.m., Mon., Dec. 19.‡ "God Is Your Provider" (Alton)

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